

not been established yet. "We have made some decisions on suppliers, but we are very, very early on in the process."

The Chevy Volt is set to hit markets in November 2010, Peterson said. The car is designed to travel 40 miles on an electric charge before tapping into electricity generated by a gas-fueled engine.

The bulk of SBE's sales remain in standard capacitors used in industrial lighting, welding equipment and supplies for cell phone towers.

"This is still what's paying the bills," he said.

SBE added to its product lineup when it became the exclusive provider for capacitors for Taser International Inc. in 2002, Sawyer said. SBE has sold about a million capacitors for the stun guns carried by police departments across the country, he said.

SBE landed Taser as a client because of the Barre company's history as an industry leader. "They actually approached us, basically on our reputation in the industry," he said.

In 2007, SBE's revenue was \$3 million to \$5 million. Sawyer expects those figures to be 20 to 25 percent higher this year. Despite the sales, earnings are lackluster.

SBE, a privately held company, is not turning a profit, but that's because profits are being rolled back into the research and development budget, Sawyer said.

FUNDING SOURCES

Department of Energy grants are helpful, but they don't offset the losses, he said.

SBE received \$850,000 from the Energy Department to perfect hybrid vehicle capacitor technology. The technology could make lighter, smaller capacitors and slice a few hundred dollars from the price of a hybrid vehicle, Sawyer said.

Grant money isn't the only source powering new endeavors at SBE. The company's eye toward innovation, and reliable revenue stream, caught the interest of "angel" investors, Sawyer said. Such investors have poured in more than \$2 million in the last four years, he said.

The work for Taser helped SBE get traction with the investment community and the existing capacitor business added a sense of security.

"There is less risk than two guys in a garage. We are an existing entity that is paying the bills," Sawyer said.

The military is interested in the power ring technology to shoot "a high energy laser" from a vehicle," Sawyer said.

The technology of the capacitors is similar. It's the sizes of the pieces that vary. Capacitors for the hybrid cars are 6 inches in diameter, substantially larger than the standard capacitors, which are ½-inch to 1-inch wide.

Capacitors being used by solar and wind energy producers to store and filter electricity are about 12 inches in diameter, he said.

York Capacitor—a similar operation in Winooski—closed in 2005 after being purchased by a South Carolina company that moved manufacturing to Mexico. York Capacitor failed to adapt, Sawyer said. "They never changed."

"I don't think we'd be in business today . . . if we didn't make the choices we made to target the markets we are now," he said.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LARRY THORNTON

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I want to share a story with my colleagues about the accomplishments of

one of my constituents. It begins with a feature story in *Landscape Superintendent and Maintenance Professional* magazine and ends with selection as the Air Force Association's 2008 Department of Veterans Affairs Employee of the Year Award. The link between the two is a fine veteran and fellow Hawaii resident, Mr. Larry L. Thornton.

In June of last year, *Landscape Superintendent and Maintenance Professional* magazine featured an article entitled "Maintaining Honor," on the quality of the grounds-keeping at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. The national cemetery, located on the island of Oahu and known to Hawaii locals as "Punchbowl," is a crown jewel of America's memorials, and the last resting place of thousands who so valiantly served their Nation. Millions visit Punchbowl annually, to walk the grounds, to stand silently in its beauty, and to pay tribute to those laid to rest there.

The article featured pictures of the groundskeepers, each identified by first and last name. Unbeknownst to the readers, these hard working stewards are injured veterans, some with disabilities for which others may have written them off as unable to contribute a day's labor. But thanks in large part to one man, one of their fellow veterans, they succeed beyond such expectations, one day at a time. That man, their supervisor for VA's Compensated Work Therapy Program for disabled veterans, managed to escape the feature photos. That man is Punchbowl's Cemetery caretaker foreman, Larry Thornton.

Fortunately, Mr. Thornton could not escape the limelight when he finally received just recognition for his work with disabled veterans and for his dedicated labor to maintain a national shrine. This year his work was recognized and earned him the Air Force Association's Department of Veterans Affairs Employee of the Year Award for 2008. I join the Air Force Association in commending this fine veteran, Mr. Thornton, for his service to his fellow veterans and our Nation. His service began long before this award, and I am sure that it will continue long after it. I am doubly proud of him, as a Senator from Hawaii and as the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.●

TRIBUTE TO STUART POLLAK

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am pleased and honored to pay tribute to Stuart Pollack for his many years of service to the Hebrew Free Loan Association based in San Francisco, CA.

Stuart graduated as valedictorian from Lowell High School in San Francisco in 1955. He went on to attend Stanford University for his undergraduate degree and graduated from Harvard Law School magna cum laude in 1962. In his first year out of law school, Stuart would serve as a law clerk to Chief Justice Earl Warren and

to Justices Stanley Reed and Harold Burton. Following his work as a law clerk, Stuart moved on to the U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division; Special Assistant to Assistant Attorney General.

After finishing his position with the Department of Justice, Stuart went into private practice at Howard Rice Nemerovski Canady & Pollak where he served as partner for 14 years before becoming a judge on the San Francisco Superior Court, a position he held through 2002. Continuing with a long list of legal accomplishments, Stuart currently serves as an associate justice on the California Court of Appeals, Division Three. Even with his demanding schedule as an associate justice, Stuart has consistently made time for Hebrew Free Loan Association and other organizations in which he has a leadership role: Jewish Community Relations Council, the Jewish Community Federation, New Israel Fund, America-Israel Friendship League and Congregation Sherith Israel.

I commend the mission of Hebrew Free Loan Association and am thrilled by the positive impact it has on the lives of those who receive its assistance. Over the last 110 years, Hebrew Free Loan Association has provided interest-free loans to people in need; assistance in the form of a loan rather than a hand out. Stuart's many years of dedicated involvement with Hebrew Free Loan Association, including his 2 years as president, has allowed many from the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish community to realize their dreams.

After nearly 30 years of continuing service to Hebrew Free Loan Association, I remain in admiration of Stuart's strong sense of civic duty. Along with hundreds of his friends and admirers throughout the San Francisco Bay area, I wish him many more years of continued community involvement and leadership.●

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT PAUL STARZYK

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of a dedicated law enforcement officer, Sergeant Paul Starzyk of the city of Martinez Police Department. For the past 12 years, Sergeant Starzyk worked tirelessly to provide the citizens of Martinez with safety and service. On September 6, 2008, Sergeant Starzyk was tragically killed in the line of duty.

Sergeant Starzyk, an Antioch resident, worked as a banker and at a local soup kitchen before he became active in law enforcement. He was hired by the city of Martinez Police Department as a reserve officer in 1992 and became a police officer in December 1994. After a brief period with the Pleasant Hill Police Department, Sergeant Starzyk came back to the Martinez Police Department in April 1997 and was promoted to sergeant in December 2007.

A member of the Central Contra Costa Narcotics Enforcement Team